

# THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center  
Volume 25, Number 4 (2001)

## 25 YEARS OF THE COURIER: A PERSONAL MEMOIR by Stanley Russell Howe

When I became Director in 1974, there was almost immediately a discussion of the fact that the Society did not have a newsletter. Every so often from then on, the topic of a regular publication came up, but so much time was being spent in acquiring a collection, preserving old newspapers, and generally setting up operations for the museum, research library and developing exhibits, that nothing appeared of this nature until late in 1976. At that time, it was decided to proceed with something that contained local history articles, program information, news of the Society and a membership application. The publication of the first issue, called "The Bethel Courier" after the town's first newspaper (1858-1861), attracted more than a hundred new members. This initial issue contained a brief history of the Society, an Editor's column which indicated that this new venture would be semi-annual, and that response would dictate whether or not it became quarterly. A list of officers and committees was also published along with a schedule of programs, news of a restoration project and the Broad Street Historic District, greetings from the Society president, genealogical notes, a review of Francis Parkman's *Gould Academy Story*, details of the sealing of the bicentennial capsule, a bibliography of recent Bethel area publications, and finally an article on Chester Harding who executed the portraits of Doctor and Mrs. Mason. First class postage (thirteen cents) was used to mail the approximately 100 issues, all hand-addressed, to members and friends.

For the next few years, succeeding issues generally followed the format established in the first issue. Feature articles ranged from "Memories of Broad Street" to "Bethel During the First World War" to "Dr. Mason's Golden Wedding Anniversary" to a history of Main Street. There was also an extended discussion of area ferries on the Androscoggin and a history of the Bethel Library for its centenary.

In June 1980, the decision was made to go quarterly, which has been the pattern to the present time. Generally, *The Courier* contained eight pages until the 1990s when it moved to twelve. As one looks at twenty-five years of issues, one is struck with what a resource these pages are for learning what were the issues facing the organization at any given time, from the early days of fund raising to the present capital



*Evolution of The Courier: The inspiration for the name of the Society publication was taken from a newspaper published in Bethel between 1858-61, shown top. Volume I, Number 1, the first Society issue, is below it and at the bottom is a recent issue without Bethel in the name, which reflects the Society's new regional focus.*

campaign. Here one learns of donations of artifacts, membership numbers, annual giving levels, special events, lecture series, and other special times.

To give some of the flavor of *The Courier* throughout the years it seems appropriate to quote from some of the issues. From Margaret Herrick's memories of Broad Street: "I knew Mr. Bingham well; I used to love to waltz with him. You see, until it appeared in the Boston papers that he was the richest man in Maine, he lived like everyone else. Then when the big

(Continued on page 4)



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 31 December 2001, over \$600,000 had been raised from cash, stock, gifts, pledges, grants, and challenges from over 400 donors.

### Corporate Gifts

Exxon \$1000  
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC \$5000  
Mead Publishing Paper Division \$4000  
Northeast Bank \$25,000

### In-Kind Services

Lee F. Carroll, Electrical Engineer, Gorham, NH, Design \$1904  
Points North Surveying, Bethel, Property Survey \$392.50  
James and Anne Mann, West Paris, Maine Gem Necklace \$5,000

### Foundation Grants

Betterment Fund \$75,000  
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(Donors of \$999 in honor of the Society's occupancy of the Robinson House in 1999)  
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### Robert Chapman Founders

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We all celebrate events, whether they be birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, holidays, or any other special event that touches us throughout the year. Organizations such as ours also celebrate. The July 4<sup>th</sup> Community Picnic featuring the Portland Brass Quintet, Sudbury Canada Days, Christmas with the Masons, New Year's Bethel, and the Annual Meeting Barbecue are just a few of our annual events. In this issue, we celebrate twenty-five years of *The Courier*.

Founded in 1976, the *Courier* has long been recognized as one of the finest historical society publications and serves a variety of useful functions. Its main purpose is to inform our members about events, exhibits, and the financial health of the Society. In addition, we learn about the lives of members and their contributions as well as much local and regional history through the photographs and words of those who have lived in this area over the years.

The continuing pages from the diary of William Hastings illustrate this last point. Too often, we hear people refer to the "good old days" or how life was so much less complicated back then. Reading the Hastings diary, however, should change that viewpoint very quickly. Laboring from before dawn to after sunset, without the use of chainsaws, skidders, and other labor savings devices, those in a bygone era knew little of what we take for granted today. From the diary, we can obtain a feeling for those former times. I have a sense that not too many of us would really want to go back to those days. It is vitally important, however, that we understand how our forebears lived, and how these earlier lifestyles shaped our landscape, environment, and the political structure of what today has become our national heritage. Congratulations *Courier*, we all look forward to the next quarter century. My sincere thanks to our editor Stan Howe and to all who continue to make this publication one that everyone looks forward to receiving throughout the year.

Alvin Barth

## ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012



headline came out, "Unknown Is Maine's Richest" with an extensive story about Mr. Bingham, everyone started deluging him with begging letters and he could no longer live his own life. He went into a shell. He was a wonderful man; he used to do a hesitation waltz, and I used to like to do it with him. He went to all the dances, and also played the violin beautifully. He was a delightful, genuine aristocrat." (Volume 1, Number 2).

In Volume 5, Number 1, we find Margaret Joy Tibbetts discussing the Irish Neighborhood, "I can remember going with my father when he paid calls in the Irish Neighborhood, probably in the late 1920s. The road was steep, narrow and hard for the old Ford. The Irish Neighborhood families were favorites of my father, Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts, who was proud of the touch of Irish in his own background. He was particularly fond of the Harringtons, but he had good friends all over the Neighborhood. He relished their wit and much enjoyed it when Bernard Harrington teased him about being a Republican. (No one was ever a stronger Republican than the Doctor; the Irish Neighborhood, on the other hand, had many good Democrats.) But best of all, the Doctor appreciated the loyalty and tenacity of the Irish in the Neighborhood. They stuck with their friends and were proud of their heritage."

In the June 1981 issue of *The Courier*, the Society's most ambitious publication project of that era was announced. This was the reprinting of Dr. William B. Lapham's *History of Bethel: 1768-1890* with new subject and name indexes as well as an interpretive essay which contained information on Lapham and his work as a local historian in addition to a brief history of the town since his era. Since that time, publication projects have been featured in *The Courier*, providing potential customers with information and incentives to purchase the book at a discount.

A special edition of *The Courier* also appeared in 1981 in observance of the Indian Raid bicentenary. It was a sponsored issue with over sixty individuals and businesses making it possible. This issue contained an introduction, schedule of events, Nathaniel Segar's *Narrative*, information on the 1881 observance, Margaret Tibbetts' recollections of the 1931 sesquicentennial activities, biographies of well-known Indians of the region, plus numerous photos. It sold for \$1 and helped defray the expenses of this three day event.

The organization's emerging regional focus began to appear in a feature article focusing on Emeline Heath's memories of the neighboring town of Gilead in the December 1981 issue. Since that time, there have been articles on all kinds of regional topics by authors who are primarily associated with other local historical societies.

Memories of specific events or subjects increasingly became regular fare of *The Courier* beginning with Barbara Brown's "I Remember the Snowboat" and becoming more ambitious with Leslie Davis' *Memoirs* and in recent years the diary of William S. Hastings. All of these brought first-hand accounts of significant developments and changes.

One of the most annoying moments for me in the publication of *The Courier* was in the Spring 1983 issue

where through a printing error, the photo of the Bethel Grange #56 and one of the Kimball family neighborhood got interchanged. Not wanting to reject the whole issue due to publication pressures, we enclosed a slip of paper in each issue pointing out the mistake so confusion would be kept to a minimum.

Beginning with the Indian Raid issue in 1981, we began to produce a sketch of some local history buildings to use as a special "logo" beside the address label. Through the years, this has varied from the East Bethel Church, to the Bethel Grand Trunk Station, to the Summer House, to the Middle Intervale Meeting House, to a Civil War soldier. In more recent years, sketches of the two buildings have been used focusing on the Regional History Center.

Perhaps no article attracted more favorable comment than the memories recorded by Marjorie Farwell Cummings on her childhood growing up on a "mountain" farm. They were published in several installments beginning in the summer of 1983 when she was in her mid-eighties. In one installment, she wrote: "For a few year in the early 1900s, my father and his brother, Porter Farwell of East Bethel, hayed their father's farm after all the families had moved away. Some years, part of our family would move there for a week or so while they were haying. They would take one of our cows along to have for milk. Wallace would take the shortcut across our place in later afternoon to help with the chores at home, and return when he had finished with the chores in the morning. It was interesting roaming about the old house. I remember seeing a cord bed. I had never seen one before; it had a big rope strung back and forth through holes in the side pieces, and was topped with a corn husk mattress. There were several beds and pieces of furniture around and in the kitchen an old table and chairs and a stove so Mama could cook the meals. The water came from a spring above the house and piped down to a tub outside the shed. Close to the back of the house stood a row of red cherry trees that still bore fruit, and nearby an apple orchard; on a small knoll was a cranberry patch, and there were a lot of blueberry bushes around. I liked to watch the men unload a load of hay with the big hayfork, that was attached to big ropes and pulleys. Grace says she remembers she didn't like being called from picking blueberries to ride the horse outside as he pulled the big rope out that carried the hay to the scaffolds."

From time to time, *The Courier* has included special enclosures highlighting some special exhibit or a forthcoming publication. One of the first exhibits that gained attention by this means was the one on the Twitchell portraits in 1984. We also had others, including flyers on the William Rogers Chapman exhibit and the publication of a second edition of Eva Bean's *East Bethel Road*, and the program for the conference on Rural Reform and Improvement.

Although earlier issues had focused on officer and trustee profiles, in 1984, a regular feature of was instituted with what was titled "Member Profiles." Longtime volunteer extraordinaire, Barbara Herrick Brown was featured as the first of this genre. Since that time over seventy profiles of outstanding volunteers or people significant to the Society for

one reason or another have been included.

One of the unusual authors for a *Courier* article was Yvonne Nowlin, who as part of SAD # 44 Adult Education's External Credit Option program, then supervised by our Curator of Collections Randall Bennett, researched and wrote about the Bethel Agricultural Fair and Riverside Park. It was a popular topic and attracted broad interest and comment.

Significant developments in the Society's history have also been noted in *The Courier*. When photographs of the Mason portraits were included in the National Portrait Gallery catalog for its Chester Harding exhibit, this news was carried on the front page of a 1985 issue. Items ranging from the receipt of major grants, announcements of bequests, policy and dues changes, annual financial report, and fund-raising success have all received space in *The Courier*.

When the focus turned to assembling the histories of Bethel streets and neighborhoods in the 1980s, space was provided for these articles. A good deal of the history of various house sites is now included here, which frequently is consulted when anyone wants to know about his or her property. Because questions were asked while people were alive who remembered, we have saved considerable oral history that might otherwise have gone the way of the grave.

Another novel experience was the publication in 1990-91 of Joyce Wanger's article on 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine. A graduate student in history at West Virginia University, she worked under my supervision to complete her M.A. degree. One of her projects was to research and write a history of 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine in Bethel. Since her husband was an emergency medical doctor at the Rumford Hospital, this topic had real significance for her. For many, this article was one of the best ones ever published in *The Courier*.

One of the most unusual stories, in my opinion, was the memoir written by my grandmother, Edith Kimball Howe, a Charter member and close friend of Society founder Eva Bean, that I found after her death in 1975. It was not purely historical, but dealt with her friendship with a woodchuck she called "Mrs. Chuck." Woodchucks on farms are generally considered the enemy, but to my grandmother this female woodchuck became a pet that visited her daily looking for a handout and in doing so engaged the whole neighborhood. It amused and entertained her. Her memoir was published in the Spring 1996 issue of *The Courier* and brought a variety of responses, most of them positive.

In the final issue for 1996, there appeared news of a grant from Exxon courtesy of Walter Hatch, then Society president. This would prove to be one of the "watershed" periods of Society history for it meant the advent of the computer era at Bethel Historical. The following year, nearly all functions of the organization were either computerized or in the process of being so.

By 1998, the progress of the Society's recently launched capital campaign began to be regularly reported. As the contributors increased, this space has gradually expanded until at present it takes up nearly two full pages. When the

mortgage on the Robinson House was paid off, the official document to that effect was published so that everyone responsible for this good news (as well as the entire membership) could share the moment.

As I look back on the past quarter century, *The Courier* has served in so many capacities. It has announced Society activities and milestones. It has included historical articles and photographs. It has provided all kinds of information to many members and friends scattered around the nation and world who in some cases have never set foot in Bethel, but wish to maintain a connection. This is a bit of what this publication has meant to many over the years. Future changes will come in time. The evolution from the early issues to the present one has been dramatic as the graphics have become bolder and more numerous. Photographs in the early days were more limited due to cost considerations, but today are found on nearly every page, sometimes spreading over entire pages. No one can tell just what *The Courier* will look like in another twenty-five years, but it is hoped that it will be enjoyed by even more readers in the future.



*Bethel Fire Department members prepare to use the back of the Robinson House for a training session.*



*A film crew is set up in front of the Dr. Moses Mason House prior to filming a promotional piece highlighting what Bethel has to offer visitors*



## 2002 Calendar of Events

**January 12:** Exhibit Opening: "Plants and Animals in Peril: Maine's Endangered Species," Robinson House, on loan from the George B. Dorr Museum of Natural History, College of Atlantic until April 30<sup>th</sup>

**February 23:** 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage, Mason and Robinson Houses

**March 14:** Spring course: "White Mountain Sampler" begins and continues until May 16

**May 9:** Lecture: "Meet Mercy Lovejoy: A Maine Pauper in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century," by Billie Gammon, former director of the the Washburn-Norlands, Livermore, ME, 7:30 p.m., Mason House Exhibit Hall

**May 25:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Robinson House

St. Never's Day Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (benefit of the Capital Campaign)

**June 1:** Exhibit Opening, "Signs of the Times," features over 30 signs of every description and period from the Society's permanent collection

**June 13:** Lecture: "Maine Civil War Photography," by Earle G. Shettleworth, 7:30 p.m., Mason House Exhibit Hall

**July 2:** Mason House opens for the summer, Tuesday through Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

**July 4:** Fourth of July Community Picnic with music by the Portland Brass Quintet, Dr. Mason House lawn (if raining, Middle Intervale Meeting House), noon to 2 p.m.

**August 9-11:** Sudbury Canada Days, summer heritage festival

**August 9:** Hall Memorial Lecture by Joseph A. Conforti, professor of American and New England Studies, University of Southern Maine, "From Yankee Doodle to Yankee Go Home: The Odyssey of a Regional Character," 7:30 p.m. Mason House Exhibit Hall

**September 5:** 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Lecture: "From Down East, The Life of Edward Sylvester Morse," by Herbert Adams, Cumberland County Register of Probate, 7:30 p.m., Mason House Exhibit Hall

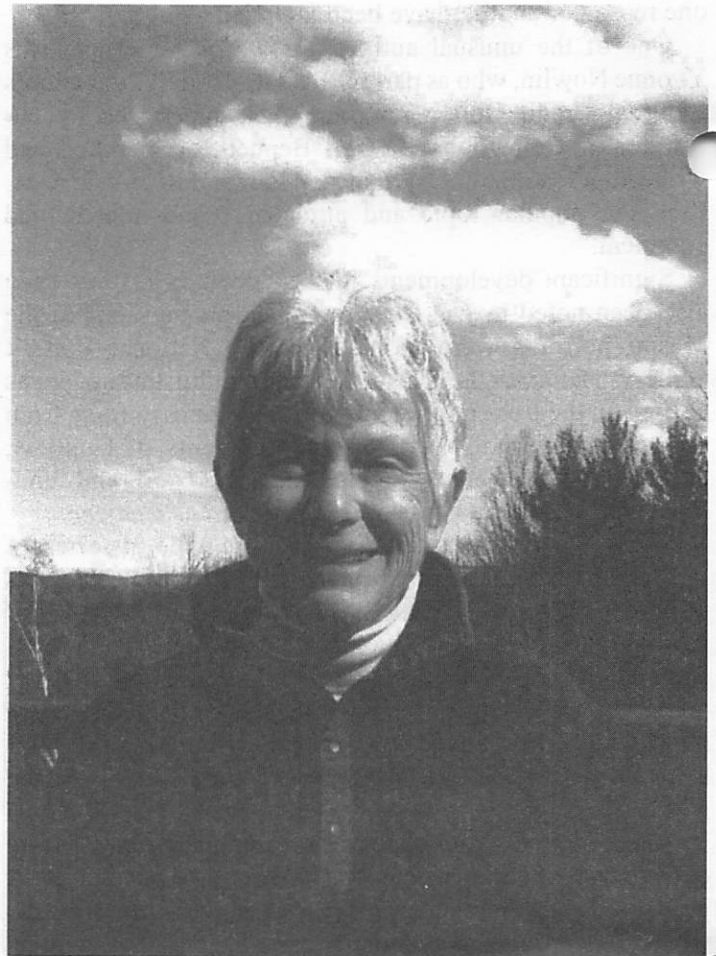
**October 10:** Lecture: "Western Maine Saints: Early Mormons in the Bethel Area," by Mary Valentine, Bethel Historical Society, 7:30 p.m., Mason House Exhibit Hall

**November 14:** "Life on the Edge: Social Structure and Dynamics in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Pemaquid," by Neill De Paoli, Ph.D., Resident Archaeologist at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site, 7:30 p.m., Mason House Exhibit Hall.

**December 5:** Annual "Christmas with the Masons," 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Dr. Moses Mason House

**December 31:** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Bethel Celebration, beginning at 6 p.m.

For further information, please call the Society at (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910.



*Lucia L. Schwarz*

### Member Profile

#### Lucia Schwarz

Lucia Schwarz was born in Buffalo, NY, where she was educated before attending Cornell University, graduating in 1956 with a major in English. Prior to her marriage, she was a service representative for Liberty Mutual. After marrying Eric Schwarz, an M.I.T. trained chemical engineer, in 1958, she moved to Amherst and then to Somers, NY, where she and her husband raised their three children. After the children entered school, she became a math and reading tutor.

Following her husband's retirement from Union Carbide, they sought to re-locate in a community on the edge of the wilderness. After looking at a number of locations, they were attracted to Bethel and decided to settle here. Both she and her husband are avid skiers. They have six grandchildren.

Since their arrival, Lucia has been a volunteer at the Bethel Family Health Center, Maine Handicapped Skiing, Bethel Library, Mahoosuc Arts Council and for literacy programs. At the Society, she has been very active in assisting with the gardens and grounds, mailings, special events, and house tours.

Her hobbies include reading, hiking, and pastel painting.

## Notes Regarding Bethel, Maine

by

William A. Valentine

*(continued from the last issue)*

### The Sugar Orchard

About five miles from home on the road to Newry Corner, there was a farmer named Timothy Jewett. On his farm was a large orchard of sugar maples extending up the side of Mt. Will. In 1878, Jewett made a deal to carry on the orchard for ten years with Moses A. Mason on a 50-50 basis.

I think Mason put in some capital to get more equipment. I believe that was probably when the new evaporator pan was put in. It was about twelve feet long and perhaps four feet wide and about eight inches deep. There were hollow baffles about four inches high extending nearly across the pan and one joined to the wall at the left side so the sap had to follow a sinuous course back and forth across the pan from end to end except as it boiled over the baffles more or less. There was float controlled siphon that regulated the feed of the sap from the storage tank into the pan and when it was in full operation sap would be feeding into the pan at the furnace end and maple syrup be drawn off at back end. The fire was at the front end, but the products of combustion travelled under the pan the full length to the chimney at the back end.

Mr. Mason did not care to do the work himself so he made a bargain with my father to do his part of the work for ½ Mr. Mason's share of the proceeds.

There was a watercourse down through the orchard and in the spring time a considerable stream ran down there fed by the melting snows.

About 500 of the sap barrels were of wood and they would dry out during the year so they were leaky and each spring we had to rig up troughs to bring the water down to the sugar camp and it was my job to keep the buckets filled with water for a day or two until they swelled up and became water tight.

There were also 500 tin sap buckets and we had malleable iron sap spouts to put in the trees and each spout had a hook to hang a bucket on.

We had sap spouts made of pine wood with a small hole bored thru them from end to end for the sap to flow through.

These spouts were saved from year to year but in the summer the mud wasps would fill up many of the holes so each spring we had a day or two of work in the workshop burning out the holes with a heated wire.

The older section of the orchard across the brook from the sugar house was on quite a steep hillside and I think the wood buckets were usually used there, while the tin buckets were used in the new orchard where the trees were younger. There was quite an open space between the sugar house and the new orchard and when tapping that orchard we each used to telescope as many tin buckets one inside another as we thought we could carry, hoist them up on our shoulders and, walking on snowshoes, carry them a quarter of a mile to the

new orchard.

One bucket was hung to each tree of the smaller trees, perhaps 15" diameter, but there were a few huge trees about the orchard three or four feet in diameter, and they would have three or four buckets each.

When it came to collecting the sap they had a hogshead mounted on a sled and drawn by a yoke of oxen as they would wallow along quietly through deep snow up to their bellies where the average team of horses would plunge and tear and get into trouble.

The usual output of the orchard was about 200 gallons of maple syrup but would be more in bulk now as they would not boil it down so much nowadays.

Mr. Jewett said that once in his father's time they had an exceptional year when they made 400 gallons. I was seldom there except during the preliminary work of getting ready for the run and helping pack things away when the season was over.

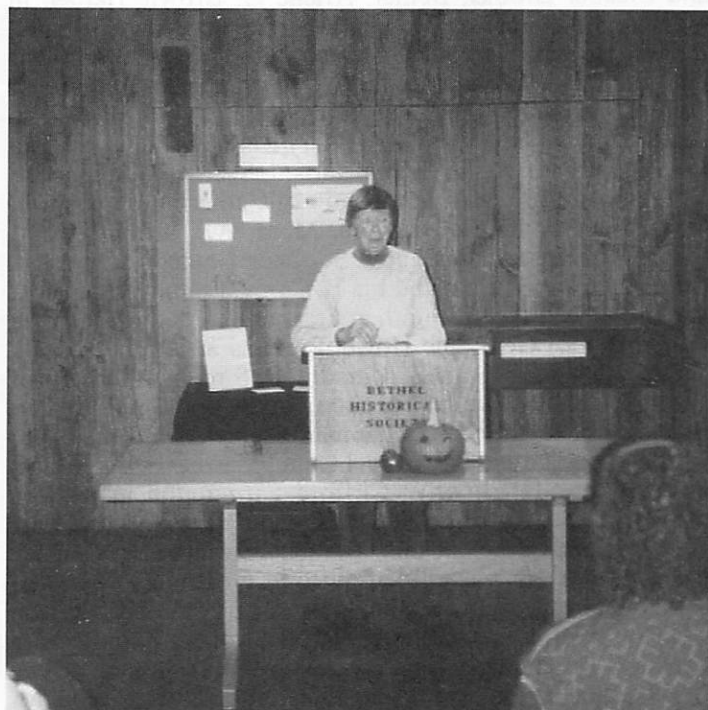
Father did the boiling and kept the fires going night and day.

When it came to putting away the tin sap buckets they took the last run of sap and boiled it down just a little and each bucket was given a rinse in it and left to dry with a slightly sweet coating.

I think Mason's agreement ended in 1888 and I believe they never worked the sugar orchard after that.

The sugar house fell in ruin years ago and Charles tells me he thinks at least part of the sugar orchard has been cut down.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*



*Hon. Margaret Joy Tibbetts, former U.S. Ambassador to Norway and a past Society president, gave the final lecture in the 2001 series at the Dr. Moses Mason House Lecture Hall speaking on her more than seventy-five years of Bethel memories.*



## 2001 ANNUAL FUND SETS RECORD

Over \$21,000 from 387 donors, a record level, was raised during 2001 for the Society's 2001 Annual Fund campaign. The Committee, John Head, chair, Dorothy Bartlett, Arlan Jodrey, Alden Kennett, and Danna Nickerson expresses their deep gratitude to all those who made this milestone possible. Annual Fund gifts were made by the following: Roger, Jr. and Nancy Adams, West Simsbury, CT; Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ontario, in memory of Geraldine Howe; Earl P. Anderson, Gorham, NH; William and Deborah Andrews, Newry; Mary Angevine, Bethel, in memory of Elizabeth Blake; Roland E. Annis, Jr., Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; Roberta Arbree, Randolph, NH; Jim and Linda Auman, Warren, NJ; Nancy Babcock, Newry; Jo and Romeo Baker, Newry; Alan and Mary Alice Bancroft, Paris, in memory of Geraldine Howe; Elizabeth L. Bane, Bethel, in memory of Geraldine Howe; Al and Lee Barth, Bethel; Dorothy Bartlett, Bethel, in memory of Urban and Lillian Bartlett; Elizabeth H. Bartlett, Fresno, CA, in memory of Albert B. Bartlett; Otis Bartlett, Gorham, NH; Urban Bartlett, Bethel; Durward and Alice Bean, New Gloucester; Penelope P. Beckman, Litchfield, CT, in memory of Marjorie MacArthur Noll; Anne Benedict and Skip Freeman, Boston, MA; Bessie E. Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett; "Hi" and Mary Lou Berry, Newry, in memory of Judith Freeman Costa; The Bethel Citizen, Bethel; Bethel Furniture Stock, Inc., Bethel; Bethel Rotary Club, Bethel; Linona Blake, West Paris, in memory of Estes and Eva Yates; Laurel Blossom, New York, NY; Gwyneth & Ken Bohr, Bethel; Garret and Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Bonnie and Keith Bowden, Melrose, MA, in memory of Geraldine Howe; Bud and Florine Bowden, Albany Township, in memory of Elizabeth Scribner; Collen F. Boyd, West Bethel; Chandler A. Briggs, South Paris, in memory of Anna Briggs; Donald and Eleanor Brooks, Bethel; Arlene G. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Geraldine Howe; Beatrice B. Brown, Bethel; Leland Brown, Bethel, in memory of Barbara D. Brown; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Norma and Albert Buck, Oxford, in memory of Elizabeth Scribner; Faith and Phil Buell, Newry; Denny and Rosemary Bunn, Tallahassee, FL; Lois S. Burgess, Bethel; Lynn Burnett, Seattle, WA; Edward V. Bush, Bourne, MA, in memory of Catherine Lyon Bush; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Muriel Thompson and "Libby" Scribner; Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA; Dr. William and Ina B. Carey, Framingham, MA, in memory of Frances Gunther; Frances S. Carlton, Dixfield, in memory of Geraldine Howe; Prentiss & Frieda Carnell, West Sand, NY; Sara S. Carson, Oxford, in memory of William R. Stowell; Stephen and Lynda Chandler, Brunswick; Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel; Dr. Donald M. Christie, Jr., Gray; Geoffrey E. and Martha Fuller Clark, Portsmouth, NH; Elinor W. Clifford, Farmington, in memory of Gordon K. Clifford; Nancy S. Coan, Washington, DC; Howard and Ginny Cole, Bethel; Eleanor B. Conary, Norwich, CT, in memory of Wilfred G. Conary; Eva and Rupert Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia and Dellison Conroy; Victor L. Coolidge, Bethel; Roland and Barbara Crocker, Riverside, RI, in memory of Wallace and Lillas Coolidge; Clayton and Lola Crockett, Bethel; Freda M. Davis, Bethel; Robert and Pauline Davis, Bethel; Judith Decker, Reading, MA, in memory of Margaret Huxkins Everett; Thomas DeLuca, D.O., Rumford; Don and Joyce Dimick, Osprey, FL; Patricia C. Dooen, Bethel; James and Julia Dougherty, Larchmont, NY; Barbara A. Douglass,

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*Woodland Cemetery in 2001 as it makes the transformation back to the garden cemetery that Dr. Moses Mason and others envisioned in the 1850s and 1860s.*

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## Diary of William S. Hastings

(continued from the last issue)



1938--November 15, Cool, squally. Shot a 4 point buck in B Brook swamp. 30 rods, 1 shot. November 16, Clear, cold, windy. Broke my back cranking motor. Awful day. Came home at night. November 17, Snow & rain. Norway to have back fixed. Painful! November 18, Rain. On back all day. November 19, Cloudy, rain. Laid up. Can hardly move. November 20, Clear, cool. Home all day. Back is bad. November 21, Clear, cool. Bob in Portland. \$1.15 cwt at Johnsons. Norway again. Back is bad & one leg short. November 22, Clear. Still in bed. November 23, Clear, warm. No change. November 24, Cold, cloudy. Thanksgiving Day. Dad here for dinner. Put in windows in p.m. Snow at night. November 25, Cold: Snow & windy. Blizzard, 1 ft. snow. Drifting bad. Went to Norway. Wild day. Put stove in shed cellar. November 26, Clouding, -8 [degrees], Took John to Bethel. Got haircut. Back is some better. November 27, Cloudy, light snow. Greenwood in p.m. November 28, Clear. "Puttered around." Back is better. November 29, Cloudy. Tried to put up spuds. Back is bad. November 30, Cloudy, warm. Dad is hunting. P.M. I went hunting a little. Dad drove 3 deer by me (just out of sight) in the Home Pasture. Fired twice at flag. Missed. End of season. December 1, Cold, windy. Norway in p.m. Looked up deeds. Had back fixed. November 2, Cold, windy. Back better. I started running wires to Garage from my house. December 3, Clear, cold. Ran wires to garage & ran cable. December 4, Warm. Ran lines South of 10R7 & 9R7. December 5, Rain. Put in two windows for Gene Burns. December 6, Rain. Went to South Paris with Bob. Dr. Swett is sick. Looked up old deeds. Rodney set my back in place. December 7, Clear, warm. Worked all a.m. on water system. Air in pipe. P.M. built a door & hung it for Gene [Burns]. December 8, Clouding. Finished Gene's door & windows. Worked on pine job in p.m. Installed Junior Steward in Masons. December 9, Rain. Built a dray. Helped John with his car. December 10, Rain!!! Brooks are up. Finished wiring garage. Snow is about gone. December 11, Mild. Checked bearing & dividing lines in L9R7. Greenwood in p.m. December 12, Snow & rain. Ruth & I went to Portland Xmas shopping. December 13, Clear, warm. Bob in Portland. 1.35 cwt at Johnsons. Dad & I swamped roads in L10R7. Back is weak. December 14, Cloudy, snow. December 15, Clear, cold. John & I went to Norway. December 16, Fair & warm. Laid around home. December 17, Cloudy. Thrashed beans, 15 bu. December 18, Cloudy & snow. Ran line between Haines & Kimball L9R7. December 19, Cloudy, Threshed beans. 7 bu., 22 in all. Eleven bu. for Noyes. December 20, Cloudy. Sawed & hauled furnace wood all day. Fixed John's separator. December 21, Cloudy. Butchered 3 hogs. Ruby Smith's funeral at 2:30. December 22, Cold, windy. December 23, Cloudy. Cut up hog. Took bean thresher home. Potatoes to Norway. Back is O.K.

(To be continued in the next issue)

## BOOK REVIEW

*Women of the Dawn.* By Bunny McBride. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. Pp. 152. Cloth. \$22; Paper. \$11.95)

Anthropologist Bunny McBride's book about four Abenaki women named Molly is as artfully constructed as an Indian basket. Each story details the personal history of a woman who struggles to create her place in her own century. Each woman is unique and fascinating.

The first Molly is Molly Mathilde (ca. 1665-1717). Her father was a chief of Maine's coastal area. Her mother was also descended from a family of chiefs. Thus the French Baron of Castine rightfully saw her as nobility when he married her. Eventually one of her sons traveled to France to assume his father's title as the fourth Baron of Castine. The second Molly is our local heroine, Molly Ockett (ca. 1740-1816). Those who are familiar with her story will find little that adds to existing knowledge, but the tale is well told, if speculative on some points, such as her stay in Massachusetts. The third Molly is Molly Molasses (ca. 1775-1867), a resident of the Penobscot community on Indian Island near Old Town. By this time, the Abenaki were reduced in numbers and in spirit. Penobscot leader, John Neptune fathered her four children, but Molly largely fended for herself and her children. As she aged, Molly Molasses became a bitter woman who at times begged for coins or sold pictures of herself. She was sometimes feared as a witch. The fourth Molly Dellis (1903-1977), who overcame hardship to become an actress and dancer performing in silent movies and on the stage as Molly Spotted Elk. She was a hit in Paris and, like Molly Mathilde, married a Frenchman. McBride uses the fourth Molly as a literary device to weave the four stories into a whole. Each of the four stories is introduced by a "portage" in which Molly Dellis researches and tries to come to terms with each of "the Mollys."

"The Four Mollys: Women of the Dawn" is the title of an exhibit, curated by Bunny McBride, on view through October at the new Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor. Our own Randy Bennett is recognized as contributing to the exhibit. Interested readers should see the exhibit if possible. In any event, read *Women of the Dawn* for historical interest as well as a compelling look at four fascinating Abenaki women. Each, in her own way, coped with and often transcended the difficulties of being female in a culture dominated by men as well as an indigenous person in a country being overrun by land-grabbing settlers.

Patricia Stewart  
Greenwood, Maine



## Editor's Corner

As noted by the feature article, this issue marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Courier*. From a personal point of view, it is one of the things I do in my capacity as Executive Director that I enjoy the most. Working on each issue is always a challenge in order to get everything I would like into the space we have available. It is quite a process assembling all the material that goes into each issue and getting it through all the stages of publication until we have it ready to go out to our many members and friends. Of course it is undeniably a concern to find any errors and be certain all photos line up with their captions. Once an issue is ready for distribution and I deliver the bulk mail boxes to the post office, I feel a great satisfaction that we are again connecting with all our faithful readers. Thanks to everyone who over the years has been so positive and so supportive about *The Courier*. And remember we always want to hear from any of you with ideas and suggestions for future issues.

On another front, somehow the volume number in the last issue got increased from 25 to 26. This issue is the last of 25 and 2002 will bring us to 26. Many apologies for any confusion this error may have caused.

SRH

## BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217 or by an e-mail: [info@bethelhistorical.org](mailto:info@bethelhistorical.org)

### In Memoriam

Died, 30 December 2001, Ina B. Carey, Framingham, MA,  
Life Member

### New Life Members

Lawrence and Marlene Engdahl, Bethel

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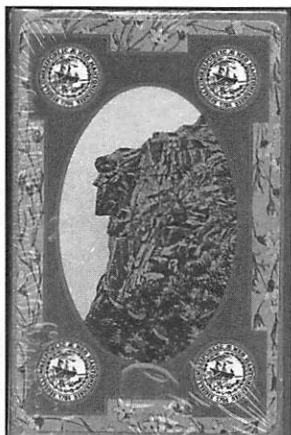
Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or 1-800-824-2910. FAX (207) 824-0882  
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